(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The issues like auction of 3G & BWA Spectrum, licensing of Mobile Virtual Network Operators, Internet Telephony etc. are under active consideration of the Government.

BSNL's network capacity

596. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATONTECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL's network capacity of 99 million GSM expansion plans are stalled with the unsuccessful bidders moving the court against disqualification on technical grounds;

(b) whether BSNL has chosen the bid of Ericsson-Huawei combined for this GSM capacity expansion; and

(c) whether Government and securities agencies had raised objections to the selection of Huawei, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the tenders for procurement of 93 million lines for GSM equipment were floated by the four zones of BSNL on 01.05.2008. The tenders were further divided into four parts as detailed below:

(i) Part I for 2G elements, Core and VAS elements.

(ii) Part II for 3G elements.

(iii) Part III for infrastructure items.

(iv) Part IV for operation and billing sub-systems.

M/s NSN had submitted their bids for part I and part II in North Zone and for Part II only in West and South Zones. These bids were found substantively non responsive after techno commercial evaluation. M/s NSN had approached Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana and Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh against disqualification of its bids in North and South zones respectively. Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana has not granted any stay, whereas Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh had stayed further proceedings for award of contract against Part II of the tender of South zone.

(b) Bids are still under evaluation and no final decision has been taken.

(c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Home Affairs/Intelligence Bureau have raised concern over the presence of foreign companies, especially from certain countries in the critical and sensitive border areas, that may have national security implications. Accordingly, a security guideline was issued to BSNL.

Speed post service

597. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Speed Post Service of Postal Department is not a efficient as the private couriers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any compensation is paid to the customers in case of late delivery of Speed Post; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In case of delay in delivery of domestic speed post articles beyond the norms determined by the Department of Posts from time to time, compensation is paid that is equal to the speed post charges.

Basic Telephone Facility

598. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages that are left out in Rajasthan where basic telephone facility is not provided till today;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the telephone facility would be provided to all villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Out of 39,753 inhabited villages in the State of Rajasthan as per Census 2001, 38,645 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). The remaining 1,108 villages have been planned to be covered with VPTs progressively in a phased manner by February, 2011 with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Broadband coverage in Panchayat

599. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts for broadband coverage to reach every Panchayat in three years;

(b) if so, the complete details worked out so far; and

(c) the status of such coverage in Andhra Pradesh rural agency areas under each Panchayat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of about 2.5 lakh Gram